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The Santa Spirit

“Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus,” the old newspaper editorial begins with this famous quote. In this world there are believers and nonbelievers regarding the existence of this jolly, old man in our lives. Nonbelievers say “Bah Humbug.” Believers say, “May the spirit of the holidays live forever.” While the physical existence of Santa Claus is unlikely, the spirit of Santa Claus is alive and well.

Nonbelievers create a great deal of sadness for those around them during the holidays. For those who do not believe there is a great deal of risk. One risks disappointing the children in his/her life. One risks a lifetime of holiday unhappiness. One risks never again finding a present with his/her name on it under the Christmas tree. Believers are not willing to take those risks. There is a great deal of things in this world that people used to believe that are no longer true. Every day, in all walks of life, people are discovering new and wonderful things. One day those nonbelievers may find out that their past beliefs are no longer valid.

Each year, usually in late November, something special travels on the cold north winds and changes the feelings of many. The majority of people around the world are filled with a sense wonder brought to believers by Santa Claus. While it is not physically delivered, it magically arrives each year at the same time. Suddenly believers are able to see more clearly their purpose in life is not to go to work every day, but to bring joy to the lives of others. At this time of the year, like no other, people find themselves committing remarkable acts of kindness and generosity. Why is it that during this time of the year acts of generosity statistically shoots through the roof? It is due to the presence of that jolly, old man known as Santa Claus. After all, he knows who has been bad or good. Doing good makes people feel good. Santa Claus is able to deliver gifts to everyone each year because he has passed his spirit on to the believers. It is the believers who pass along his good cheer and kindness to those in need of holiday miracles. Through his helpers, Santa Claus is able to spread love throughout the land. Family, friends, and perfect strangers feel the joy of the holidays as they pass each other on the street or spend quiet time together.

The nonbelievers will attempt to impress believers with logical and mathematical impossibilities. Santa Claus could not possibly travel to every house around the world in one night. They will try to convince believers that reindeer cannot fly. If they could, it would still be physically impossible for them to pull a sleigh weighing tons. Most obviously, they will try to convince believers that Santa Claus is not real because each store shop has a different person dressed up as Santa Claus. They will claim that Santa Claus is a marketing ploy to get consumers to spend lots of money. Nonbelievers, the believers already know that Santa Claus may not be physically real, but it is the spirit of Santa Claus that should live in your hearts. Just because people cannot see something, does not mean that it does not exist. Often times, the most meaningful gifts are those not bought in a store and are unseen by the human eye. In the words of rapper Pitbull, “Believe none of what you hear and only half of what you see.” Despite the human nature of wanting to believe that everything seen is true, the truth remains that people are willing and able to manipulate reality. Be smart. Know that these fools have their own agenda. Believers should look to their own thoughts and beliefs to find what they know in their hearts to be truth.

Believers know that Santa Claus is not perfect. Many children have received numerous gifts that made them wonder why Santa Claus would bring that particular item. Virgil Bielenberg, a man in his 70s, is still traumatized by the left-handed ball glove he received as a child. But like regular people, Santa is not perfect. However, there are some gifts he has given that more than make up for the monster trucks he gave to a young girl. Believers have been given the gift of generosity. Believers have been given the gift friendship. Believers have been given the gift of family. Believers are glad that they far outnumber the nonbelievers. For if too many of people stop believing, he may cease to exist.

The spirit of Santa Claus is alive and well in the hearts many. If non-believers are still skeptical as to the existence of Santa Claus and his spirit of giving and goodness, look into the eyes of a family who received a full box of groceries for Christmas day. Look into the eyes of the woman who did not have to dig change out of her car seats to fill her tank with gas because a stranger was kind enough to cover the bill. Look into the eyes of the believers on Christmas morning, and you too, will feel the spirit of a man named Santa Claus and BELIEVE!